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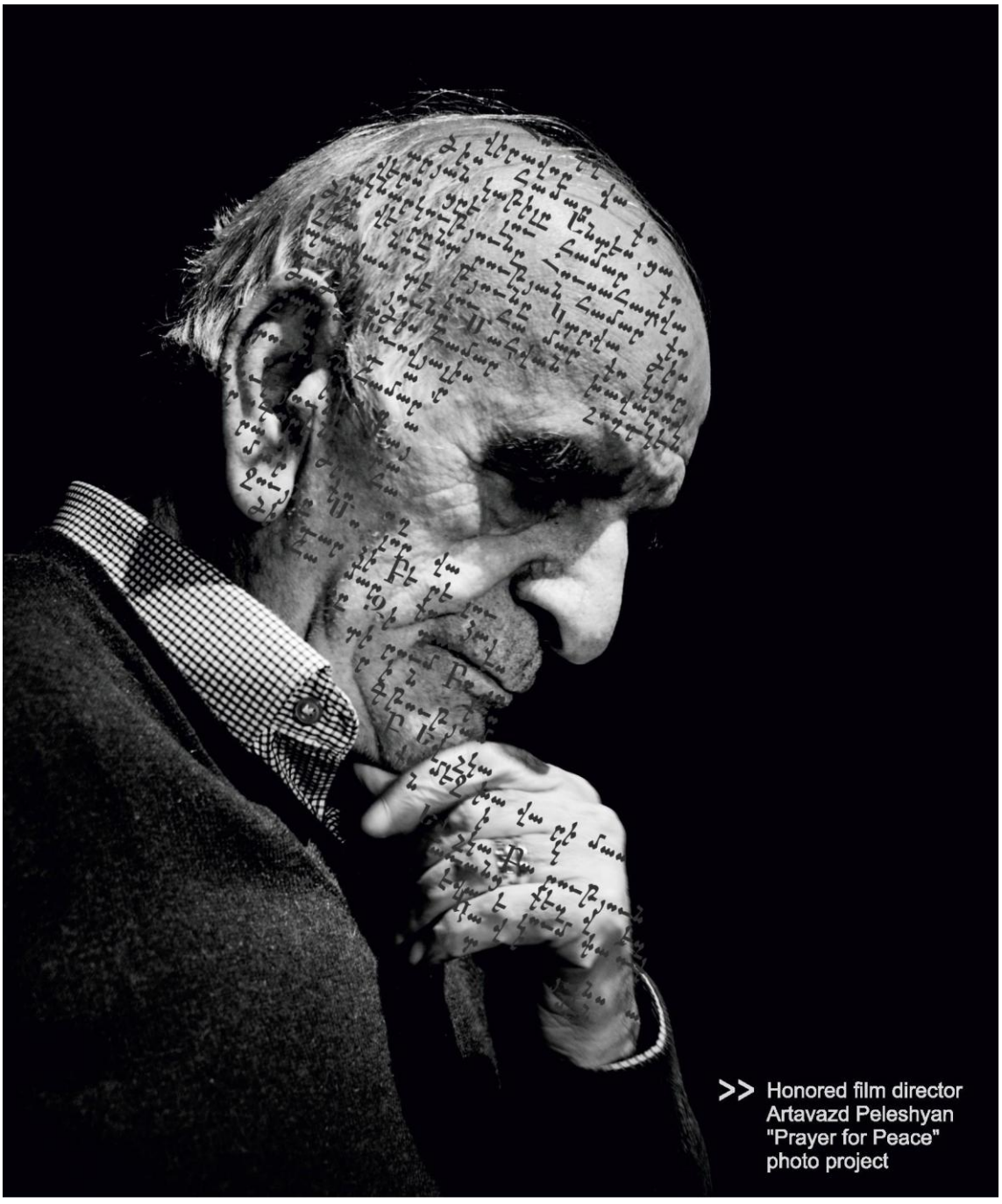
The Light of Tatev

The photographs taken by TATEV express both a seriousness and a hope in man that can only touch us deeply, make us think and (perhaps) modify us. There is in his images a desire to abolish the differences that lead to wars and exterminations when the difference, well understood, helps to recognize oneself in the other. Prayer conceived in this way can help us to live and above all to survive. It concerns us even if we are not believers in the religious sense. Silent, prayer is no less strong, strong in the power to awaken in oneself the feeling of belonging to the human race, of what can at one time or another bring us together. The prayer is not addressed only to a chosen religion among many others, it is unifying, says something about our possibilities for dialogue. It is the power of words which joins that of speech (vac in Hindi) at the origin of the world and metamorphoses. She reflects the power of images and in particular the power of photography. Falsely silent photography has the power to bring us together to give us the feeling of not being alone in the exercise of vision and sharing. It brings us together, as the sociologists and psychologists of this medium have been able to say. Here the effect is doubled by the person shown in prayer, in action.

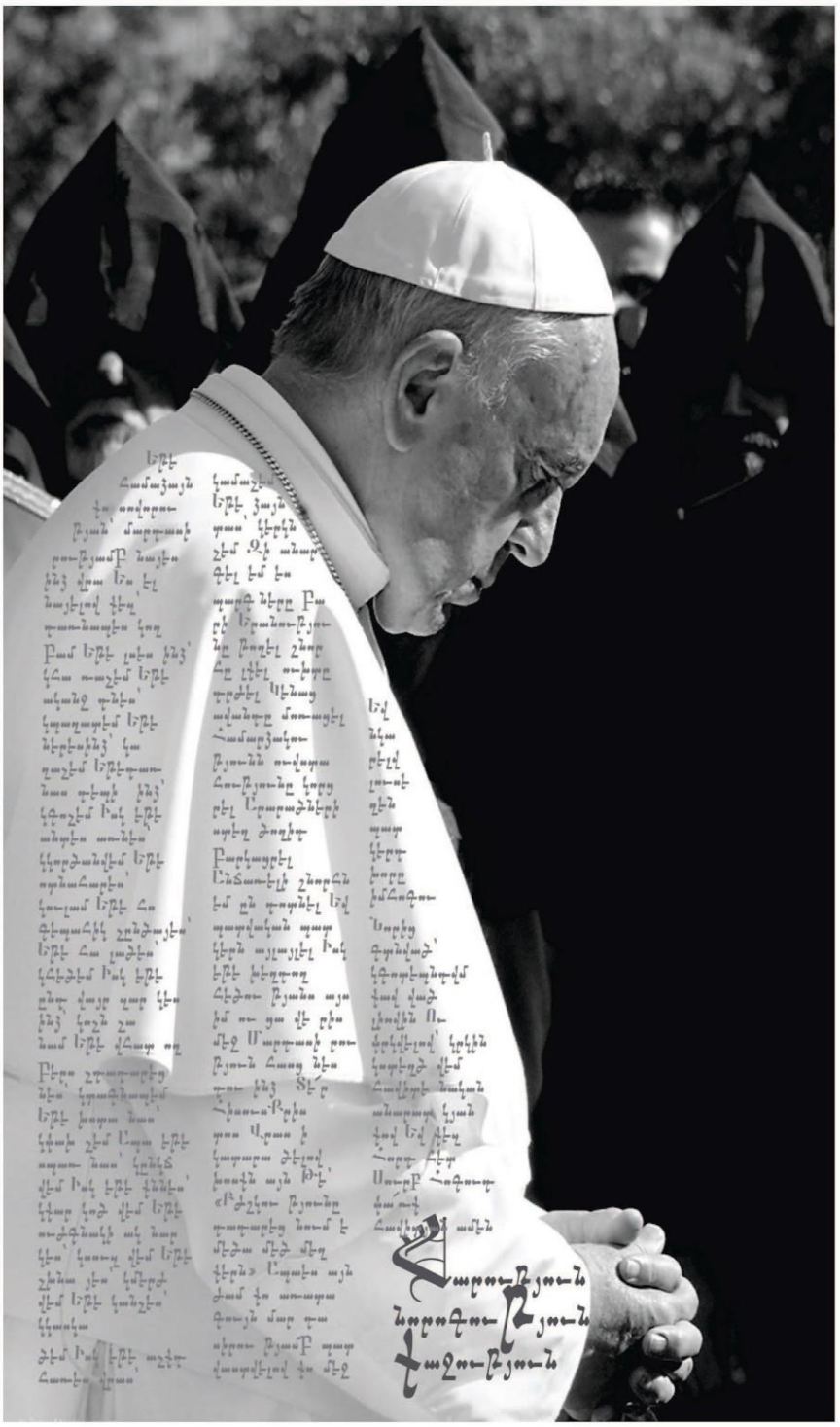
The words on the picture, in the picture; duplication of meaning. Inscriptions in the body, in the flesh, an attempt to break into the intimacy of being. The non-Armenian probably perceives only the beauty of the letters, the skin like a parchment. Are we not, moreover, open books, offered in our nudity to the gaze of others?. Anybody surface is a call to the other, the face probably even more so (Emmanuel LEVINAS). The pores of the skin say the hieroglyphs of thought? the nudity of the face awaits this truth of meaning which is that of the heart.

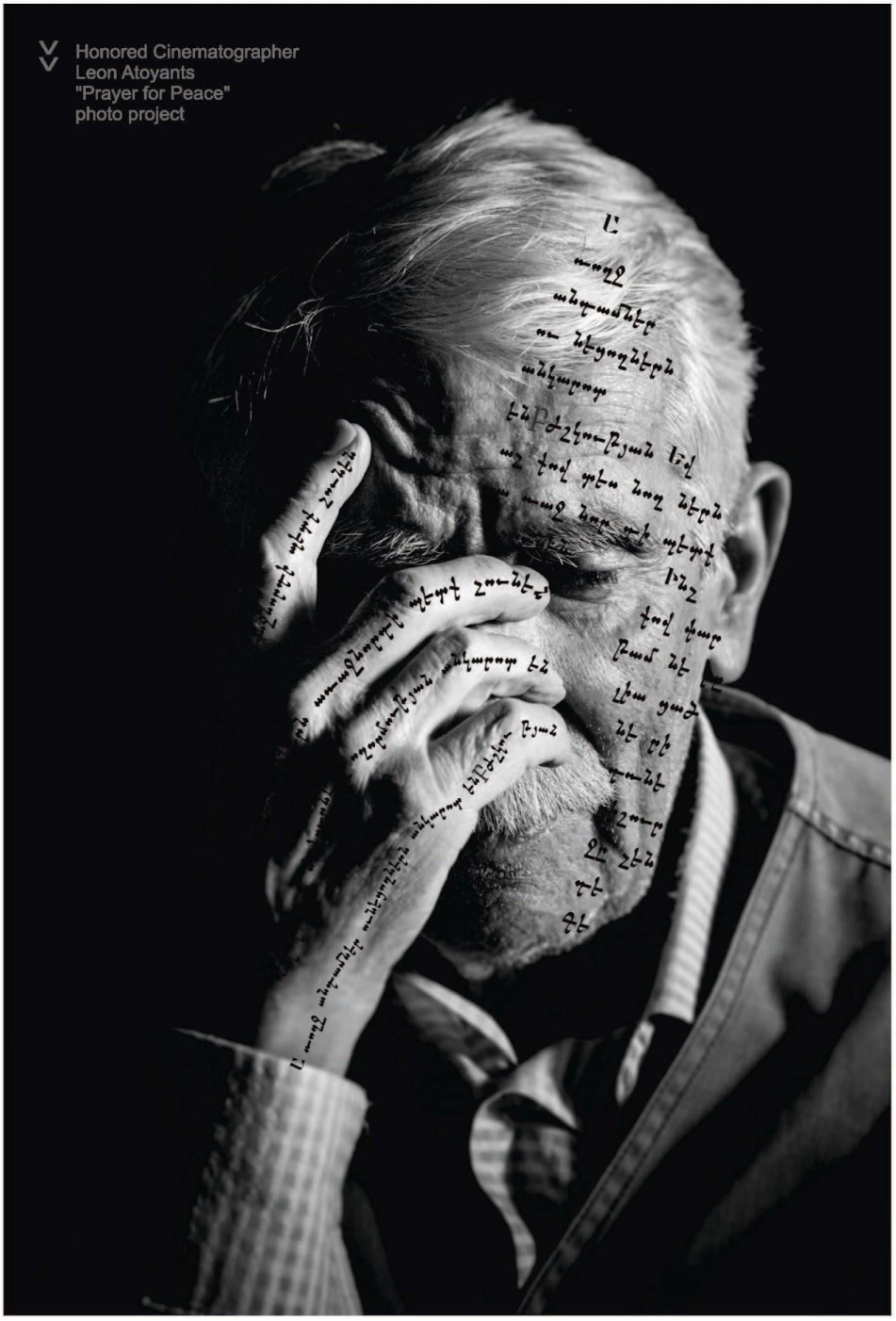


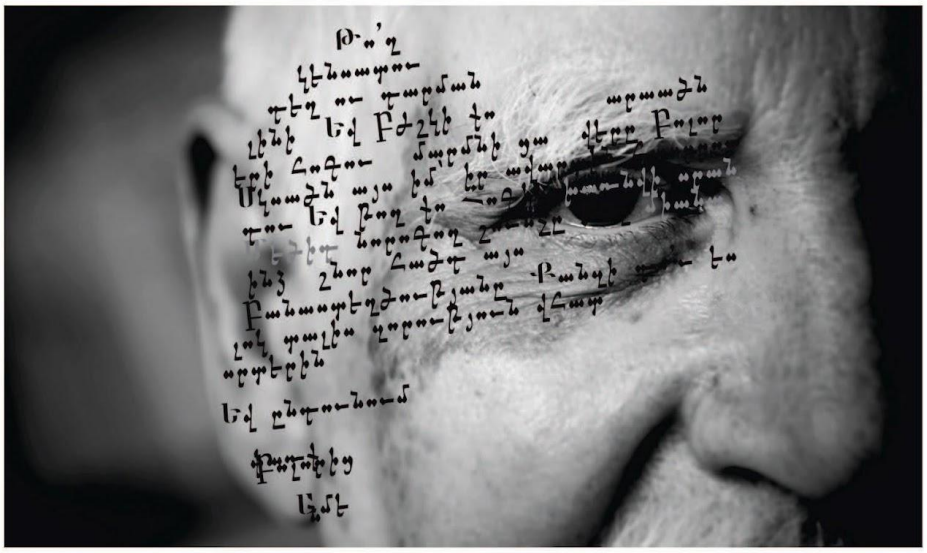
>> Honored film director Artavazd Peleshyan "Prayer for Peace" photo project

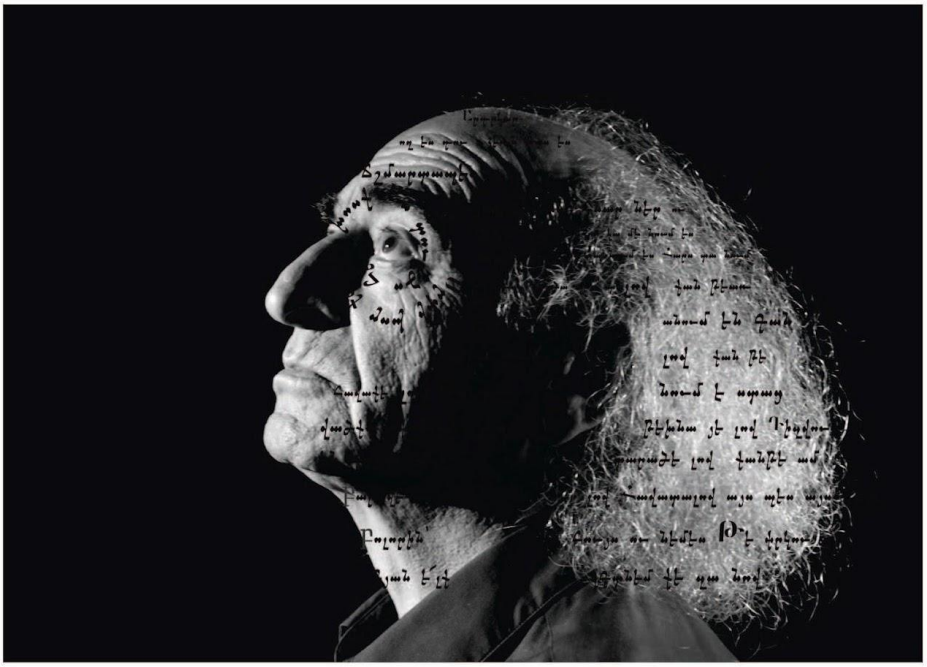
But the world risks tipping over into horror at any moment, into what one hesitates to call chaos, when the red is that of blood, the pictorial form of our psychic haemorrhage when everything flows without restraint, fragility experienced without the recourse to prayer which inspires hope. And photography is like a prayer in itself offered to the gaze of the other and allowing him the journey of private thought. We commune with the images that the generosity of TATEV gives to see.

She wanted to choose ancient texts taken from the Armenian memory, this memory which contains much of a past which is that of sometimes desperate struggles recalling the Christic sacrifice. As a Frenchman, I think of ARMENIA as another me, a country in which we recognize heroic resistance, a country that we have integrated into ourselves like the distant relative who can always come to us, knowing that he can find roots here that are probably imaginary but fictionally true.




Honored Cinematographer
Leon Atoyants
"Prayer for Peace"
photo project



^^ Honored artist
Robert Elibekyan
"Prayer for Peace"
photo project

vv Honored artist
Vanik Mkrtchyan
"Prayer for Peace"
photo project